

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A linear block copolymer composition, comprising from 55 to 95 mass% of a vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon and from 5 to 45 mass% of a conjugated diene as monomer units;

~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

the linear block copolymer composition is a mixture of a linear block copolymer having at least three types of polymer blocks with different molecular weights, each comprising a vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon as monomer units and represented by the following formula:

S-B-S

~~(wherein where~~ S is a polymer block comprising a vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon as monomer units, and B is a polymer block comprising a conjugated diene as monomer ~~units)~~ units; and further,

(1) the molecular weight distribution (Mw/Mn) of a mixture of the polymer blocks each comprising a vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon as monomer units, is within a range of from 3.35 to 6, and

(2) in a gel permeation chromatogram of a mixture of the polymer blocks each comprising a vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon as monomer units, M1/M2 is within a range of from 12.5 to 25, where M1 is the peak top molecular weight corresponding to a peak at which the peak top molecular weight becomes maximum among peaks forming a proportion of the area of at least 30% to the whole peak area, and M2 is the peak top molecular weight corresponding to a peak at which the peak top molecular weight becomes minimum among peaks at which the peak top molecular weight is at most 50,000 and which form a proportion of the area of at least 20% to the whole peak area.

Claim 2 (Original): The linear block copolymer composition according to Claim 1, wherein in a gel permeation chromatogram of a mixture of the polymer blocks each comprising a vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon as monomer units, the proportion of the number of moles of S1 to the sum of the numbers of moles of S1 and S2 is within a range of from 5 to 25 mol%, where S1 is a component corresponding to a peak at which the peak top molecular weight becomes maximum among peaks forming a proportion of the area of at least 30% to the whole peak area, and S2 is a component corresponding to a peak at which the peak top molecular weight becomes minimum among peaks at which the peak top molecular weight is at most 50,000 and which form a proportion of the area of at least 20% to the whole peak area.

Claim 3 (Original): The linear block copolymer composition according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the peak top molecular weight M2 is within a range of from 4,500 to 20,000.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The linear block copolymer composition according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 3~~Claim 1, wherein the peak top molecular weight M1 is within a range of from 90,000 to 200,000.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The linear block copolymer composition according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~Claim 1, wherein in a gel permeation chromatogram of the linear block copolymer composition, the molecular weight distribution (M_w/M_n) of a component corresponding to a peak at which the peak top molecular weight becomes maximum among peaks forming a proportion of the area of at least 30% to the whole peak area, is less than 1.03.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The linear block copolymer composition according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5~~Claim 1, wherein in a gel permeation chromatogram of the linear block copolymer composition, $M3/M4$ is within a range of from 2.5 to 4.5, where M3 is the peak top molecular weight corresponding to a peak at which the peak top molecular weight becomes maximum among peaks forming a proportion of the area of at least 30% to the whole peak area, and M4 is the peak top molecular weight corresponding to a peak at which the peak top molecular weight becomes minimum among peaks forming a proportion of the area of at least 15% to the whole peak area.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The linear block copolymer composition according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 6~~Claim 1, wherein in a gel permeation chromatogram of the linear block copolymer composition, the peak top molecular weight of a component which provides the maximum peak area is within a range of from 120,000 to 250,000.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A composition comprising the linear block copolymer composition as ~~defined in any one of Claims 1 to 7~~according to Claim 1, and a thermoplastic resin other than the linear block copolymer composition.

Claim 9 (Original): The composition according to Claim 8, wherein the mass ratio of the linear block copolymer composition/the thermoplastic resin is from 30/70 to 70/30.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The composition according to ~~Claim 8 or 9~~Claim 8, wherein the thermoplastic resin is a polystyrene polymer.